THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

May 28, 2023

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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WWW.SAINTJOHNCHURCH.ORG

HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN JOSEPH, ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK AND METROPOLITAN OF ALL NORTH AMERICA

HIS GRACE BISHOP THOMAS, AUXILIARY BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON, OAKLAND , AND MID-ATLANTIC

PASTOR: REVEREND FATHER STEVEN SHAHEEN

REVEREND FATHER SERAPHIM MOSLENER

We take this opportunity to welcome those guests praying with us.

Anyone wishing to request prayers for Health and Well-being, or a Trisagion prayer, please contact Fr. Steven

The Orthodox Church understands that the sacraments we experience are a fundamental part of the sacred life of a worshipping community that shares in "one body…one faith". (Eph. 4:5). Thus, we can only share Communion with those who are Orthodox and who have prepared themselves by prayer, fasting and Confession. If you are not Orthodox, or are not properly prepared, you are welcome to come forward and receive a blessing and then to take a piece of the blessed bread. Please see Father Steven after Divine Liturgy.

SUNDAY, May 28, 2023

Sunday of the After-feast of the Ascension

Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council Hieromartyr Eutychios, Bishop of Melitene; Martyr Heliconis of Thessalonica

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

Clap your hands, all ye nations; shout unto God with a voice of rejoicing. For the Lord Most High is terrible; a great King over all the earth. Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us. He hath subdued peoples under us, and the nations under our feet. God is gone up in jubilation, the Lord with the voice of the trumpet. (Refrain)

Glory... Both now... (Refrain)

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, in the city of our God, in His holy mountain. The mountains of Sion on the sides of the north, the city of the great King. Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who didst rise from us in glory to the heavens; who sing to Thee. Alleluia. God is known in her towers when He cometh to help her. (Refrain) For lo, the kings of the earth were assembled; they came together. (Refrain) Glory... Both now... O, only begotten Son and Word of God...

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

Hear this, all ye nations; give ear, all ye that inhabit the world. My mouth shall speak wisdom; and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding. I will incline mine ear unto a parable; I will unfold my problem on the psaltery.

Receiving Confession before Vespers

Father Steven is available on Saturdays from 3 to 4pm before Vespers to hear confessions.

The Hour prior to Great Vespers he is in Prayer before the service.

Please contact him to schedule a time for confession.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SIX

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb. And the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF THE ASCENSION IN TONE FOUR

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy Disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit, making them confident through the blessing that Thou art the Son of God, and Deliverer of the world.

APOLYTIKION OF THE HOLY FATHERS IN TONE EIGHT

Thou, O Christ, art our God of exceeding praise Who didst establish our holy Fathers as luminous stars upon earth, and through them didst guide us unto the true Faith, O most merciful One, glory to Thee.

TROPARIAN OF SAINT JOHN

O Apostle John, speaker of deity, the beloved of Christ our God, hasten to deliver your people, powerless in speech, for He on Whose bosom you lean accepts you as an intercessor. Beseech Him therefore to disperse the darkness of ignorance, and pray for peace and great mercy to be shown upon us.

THE KONTAKION OF ASCENSION TONE EIGHT

When Thou didst fulfill Thy dispensation for our sakes, uniting the terrestrials with the celestials, Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, inseparable in space, but constant without separation, and crying unto Thy beloved: I am with you, and no one shall be against you.

Receiving Communion

If you aren't able to come to Divine Liturgy because of **illness** and would like to receive communion, please contact Father Steven. Those who receive communion at home or the hospital should be unable to attend Church due to ILLNESS, Recent Surgery or issues of a demonic influence. This practice is reserved and not for everyday circumstances. **It is time to get back to Church! Come Join US!**

Father Steven@ (724) 448-1723

Fr.Steven@SaintJohnChurch.Org

THE EPISTLE

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.

For Thou art just in all Thou hast done to us.

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (20:16-18, 28-36)

In those days, Paul was determined to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening, if possible, to be at Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost. And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the priests of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you bishops, to shepherd the church of the Lord and God, which He purchased with His own blood. For I know that after my departure ravenous wolves will enter among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore, remain watchful, remembering that for three years I did not cease to admonish every one, night and day with tears. And now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by such laboring we ought to help the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He Himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down on his knees with them all, and prayed.

MAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
	1	2	3 Leonard Kayaf
7 Matins 9AM DL 10AM	8 **Divine Liturgy** **St John 9 AM**	9	10
14 Matins 9AM DL 10AM	15 Joni V. Birthday!	16 Fr Steven @ AV—— Kietzke Anniversary!	17 Meeting with M
21 Matins 9AM DL 10AM PC MTG	22 DeJesus Anniversary!	23	24 Brian Linville B James Tutwiler
28 Matins 9AM DL 10AM Memorial Day Trisagion	29 Spiro Nellas BD	30 Fr. Surgery **Last day for Saturday of Souls List**	31

2023

l	Thu	Fri	Sat
ıs BD	4 **Ministry 10-4** **Ministry Mtg 4:30**	5 Addiction Service Benjamin Linville BD Fr. Seraphim & Kh Pat –Anniversary!	6 Great Vespers 5 PM Journey Through Orthodoxy
	11 Ministry 10-4	12	13 Great Vespers 5 PM Journey Through Orthodoxy
et. Saba	18 Ministry 10-4 Mtg w Bp John	19	20 Great Vespers 5 PM Journey Through Orthodoxy
) BD	25 Ministry 10-4 Office Hours Divine Liturgy 9 AM	26	27 Great Vespers 5 PM Journey Through Orthodoxy
	1	2	3 SATURDAY OF SOULS 10 AM GV 5 pm

Ensure that you submit your names of the departed for Saturday of Souls Liturgy on June 1st.

Email Fr. Directly @ FR.STEVEN@SAINTJOHNCHURCH.ORG SUBJ: SATURDAY OF SOULS

Orthodox List and Non-Orthodox List

Prayers Offered

Prayers are offered in **memory** of All those who sacrificed their lives defending this great country. Prayers are offered in **memory** of Metropolitan Philip, Bishop Auntoun, Archbishop Peter, Archbishop Michael, Igumen George, Archpriest Peter, Archpriest Theodore, Dn. Larry, Sh. Peggy, Priest Basil, and the Priest Solobadon.

Prayers are offered in **memory** of Aloma and James Burgess.

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Prayers are offered for the health and well-being of Fr. Justin.

Prayers are offered for the health and well-being of Janis.

Prayers are offered for the health and well-being of Fr. Steven for his surgery on Tuesday

Prayers are offered for the health and well-being of the Child Aiden.

Prayers are offered for the health and well-being of Jim.

Father Steven Will be unavailable ALL DAY Tuesday.

Should you need a Priest, Please contact Fr. Seraphim.

Fr. Steven will be having a bone graph done on his sinus cavity.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

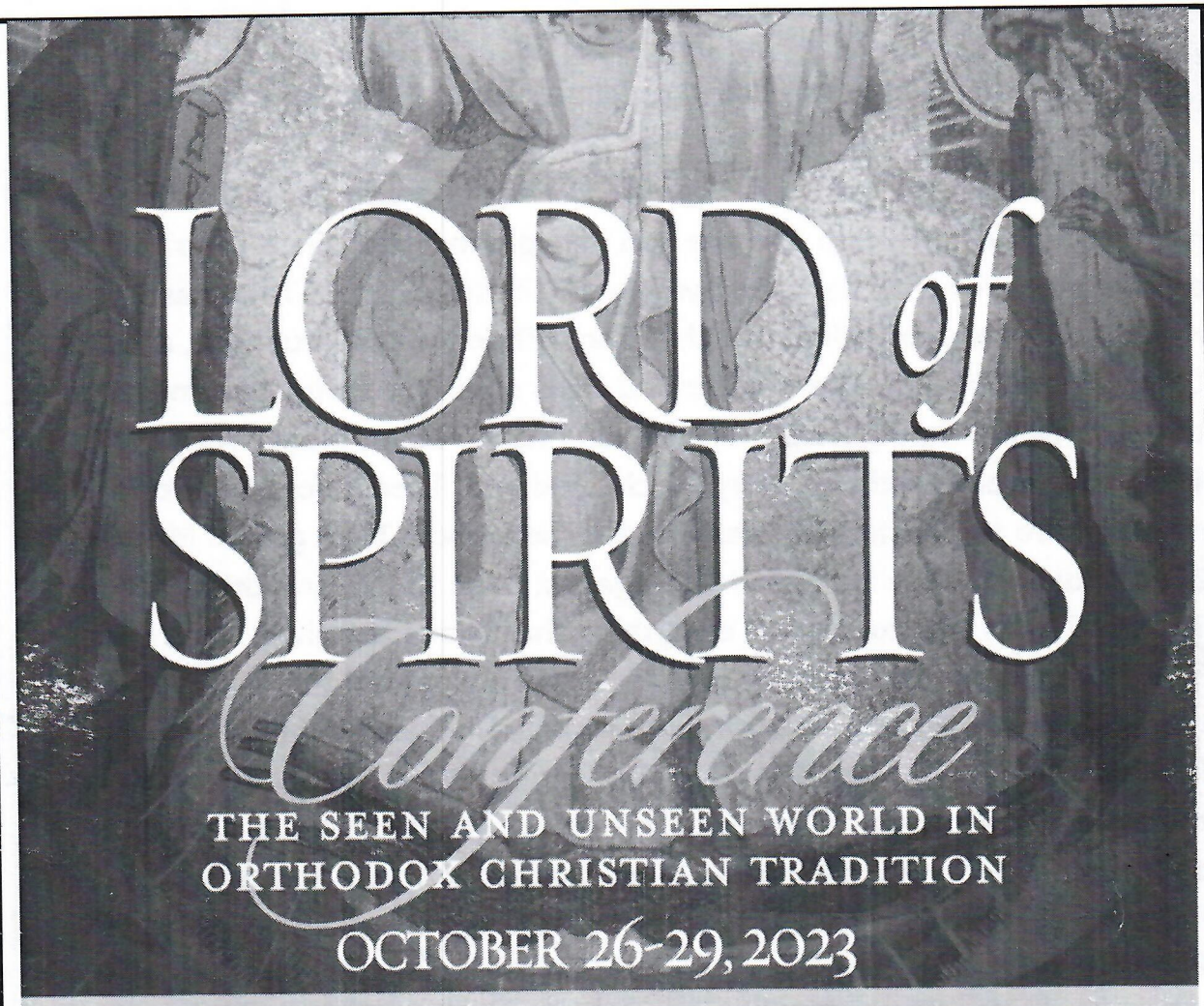
People were not created merely to live here on earth like animals that disappear after their death, but to live with God and in God, and to live not for a hundred or a thousand years, but to live eternally.

- Bishop Innocent of Kamchatka, the Kurilian and Aleutian Islands

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (17:1-13)

At that time, Jesus lifted up His eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Thy Son that the Son may glorify Thee, since Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom Thou hast given Him. And this is eternal life, that they know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom Thou hast sent. I glorified Thee on earth, having accomplished the work which Thou gavest Me to do; and now, Father, glorify Thou Me in Thy own presence with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was made. I have manifested Thy Name to the men whom Thou gavest Me out of the world; Thine they were, and Thou gavest them to Me, and they have kept Thy word. Now they know that everything that Thou hast given Me is from Thee; for I have given them the words which Thou gavest Me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from Thee; and they have believed that Thou didst send Me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom Thou hast given Me, for they are Thine; all Mine are Thine, and Thine are Mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to Thee. Holy Father, keep them in Thy Name, which Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one. While I was with them, I kept them in Thy Name, which Thou have given Me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves."



The Lord of Spirits, the podcast that opens up the visible and invisible world of angels, demons, and saints, is now coming to a live, in-person conference. Meet **Fr. Stephen De Young, Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick, Fr. David Subu, Fr. Lucas Christensen,** and more, for discussion, prayer, and fellowship centered on the ancient Biblical, historical, and liturgical sources that have made Lord of Spirits by far one of the most popular Orthodox Christian podcasts in the English language.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT ELLIE BERNASOL AT ELLIE@ANCIENTFAITH.COM

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ANCIENT FAITH
WOMEN'S
RETREAT
November 9-12, 2023

A GATHERING OF THE "SPIRITUALLY ELITE"

For nearly three centuries, the Christian Church was forced to endure ridicule and persecution from the pagan Roman Emperors. The blood of Christian martyrs flowed freely in the early days of the Church's existence. When Christianity was finally deemed acceptable, and, indeed, proclaimed to be the OFFICIAL RELIGION of the Byzantine Empire by Constantine the Great, it was hoped that these faithful communities of believers would find the peace and contentment for which they longed.

But it was not to be so! The Church now had to contend with an "enemy" from within: an Alexandrian priest named Arius, who was spreading a teaching that Christ was CREATED by God the Father, and, therefore, was NOT EQUAL to Him. The Church was shaken by this heretical teaching, which quickly gained widespread acceptance.

In an effort to combat this heresy, an unprecedented gathering of bishops, priests and other ecclesiastical dignitaries was convened in the city of Nicaea in the year 325 A.D. The list of the Church Fathers present was a "who's who" of early saints! St. Nicholas was there, as was St. Spiridon, St. Athanasius, St. Eustathius of Antioch, St. Eusebius of Caesarea and many others.

After heated deliberations – which saw an enraged St. Nicholas actually strike Arius -- the Council condemned the works of this heretical cleric. This Council also definitively confirmed the Symbol of Faith (the Creed), which was later expanded upon at the Second Ecumenical Council.

The First Ecumenical Council also established the guidelines for determining the date of Pascha, set the date of September 1 as the beginning of the liturgical year and decreed that celibacy should not be imposed upon the clergy.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin . . . . . Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey . . . . . Litho in U.S.A.

CHECK WEBSITE FOR FEAST DAY SERVICES

WWW.SAINTJOHNCHURCH.ORG

OFFICE HOURS

By Appointment Only